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THE DELETION OF PENTAPANAX SEEM. FROM THE FLORA OF AUSTRALIA

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Summary

The two Queensland species currently referred to *Pentapanax* are shown to be members of *Polyscias*. Appropriate new combinations are made: *Polyscias willmottii* (F. Muell.) Philipson and *Polyscias bellendenkerensis* (F. M. Bailey) Philipson.

The genus *Pentapanax* Seem. (Araliaceae) is currently considered to occur in South America, India, China, South-east Asia and Taiwan, with an outlier on two volcanic peaks in east Java, and in addition two species attributed to this genus occur in Queensland. Hutchinson (1967) proposed a more restricted application of the genus, reviving *Coudenbergia* Marchal. for the South American species, and erecting a new genus, *Parapentapanax* Hutch., to include species with their flowers arranged racemosely. The position of the two Queensland species, however, was not affected.

Pentapanax is placed in the Aralieae, a Tribe characterized by the imbricate arrangement of the petals when in bud. Indeed, *Pentapanax* is closely related to *Aralia* L. from which it differs principally by having the style arms united into a column. The importance of the aestivation of the corolla in subdividing the family has long been recognized and is still upheld.

The first Australian species attributed to *Pentapanax, P. willmottii* F. Muell., was described from material which bore fruit but neither petals nor stamens, and when the Queensland Flora (Bailey, pt 2, 1900) was published, no further information appears to have been available. A second species, *P. bellendenkeriensis* F. M. Bailey, was also described from fruiting material. So far as can be ascertained, no information about the corolla of either Australian species has been published, so that the attribution to *Pentapanax* could be no more than tentative. In view of the disjunct distribution, and the atypical facies of the two Queensland species, collections of flowering material of both species were borrowed from the Queensland Herbarium and carefully examined. It was evident by dissection that the petals were valvate in bud, and this was confirmed by examining serial sections of the corolla-buds. No trace of overlapping of the margins of the petals occurred. In the light of this additional evidence the position of the two species in *Pentapanax* can no longer be upheld. Indeed, they must be placed in another Tribe, the Schefflereae, where they agree in every respect with the genus *Polyscias* Forst. (in the broad sense of Bernardi, 1971: in a narrower sense they

would come within the genus *Kissodendron* Seem.). Their geographical distribution and general facies are in accord with this, as are such technical characters as the pinnate (or bi-pinnate) leaves and the articulated pedicel. The necessary new combinations follow:

1. Polyscias willmottii (F. Muell.) Philipson, comb. nov.

Pentapanax willmottii F. Muell., Australas. J. Pharmacy, 2:125 (1887); F. M. Bailey, The Queensland Flora: 2:730 (1900).

2. Polyscias bellendenkerensis (F. M. Bailey) Philipson, comb. nov.

Pentapanax bellendenkeriensis F. M. Bailey, Queensland Agric. J. 15:491 (1904); and in Meston, A, Queensland Dept. Agric. Report of Govt. Expedition to Bellenden-Ker Range, (1904).

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